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~ Episode Three ~

Swordmaster Chun-Lang

Check out *iD_eNTITY* also by Son Hee-Joon

The Madosa Guild has sealed the doors to the Mahgae of Hades! Is Sang really in league with the Guild? Looks may be deceiving, especially when a hint of her ring's true nature is revealed–the power that the ring instills upon its wearer is truly a life-changing experience. Sharpen your swords and don't cry for mommy as Sang sets off on another adventure!

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PhD 3

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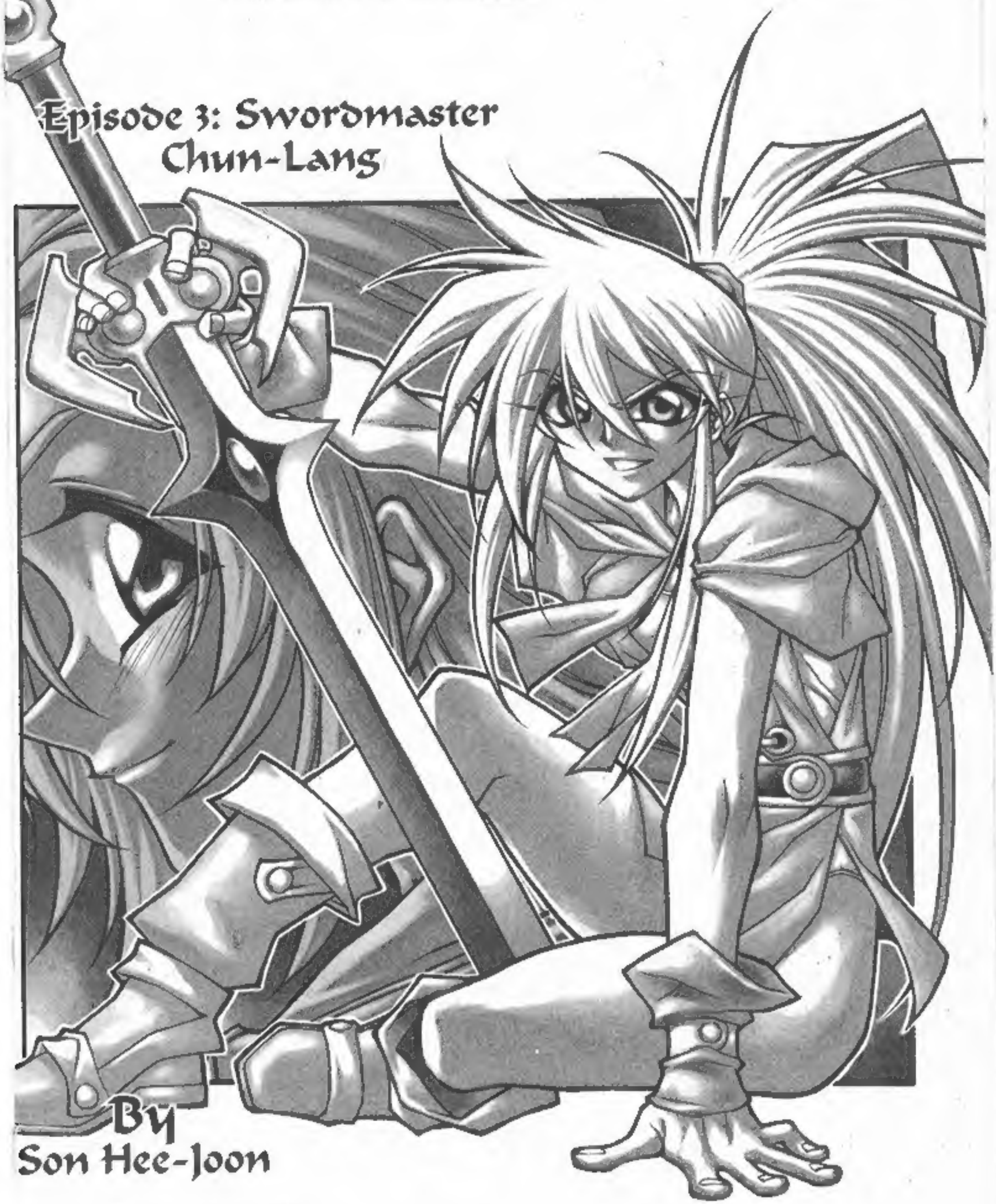
Episode 3: Swordmaster Chun-Lang



By
Son Hee-Joon

Previously in...

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MOST MUMMIES I'VE SEEN ARE ROTTING IN SARCOPHAGUSES, AND THEY'RE LIVELIER THAN YOU! DO MUMMIES EVEN EAT FLESH? I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT ZOMBIES DID. AT LEAST ZOMBIES CAN INSPIRE SOME FEAR.
HEY, YOU! WITH THE BABY FANGS! YOU'RE NOT EVEN A PURE-BLOODED VAMPIRE, ARE YOU? I BET YOU WERE BITTEN BY ANOTHER VAMPIRE, RIGHT?
Mm-hmm.
AND YOU, GOAT BOY! ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A DEMON? WITH HORNS THAT STUBBY, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN IMPOTENT IMP! HONESTLY, ARE YOU EVEN CAPABLE OF CASTING MAGIC?
WHAT A BUNCH OF SAD SACKS! PATHETIC!
YOU'RE A BUNCH OF DEMON SCHOOL SLACKERS, AREN'T YOU? JUST A GROUP OF BELOW-AVERAGE BEELZEBUBS! AM I RIGHT?

A spunky, fearless girl named Sang searches for the Demon School Hades...and a legendary ring contained within its walls. When she encounters a group of misfit monsters that are playing hooky from school, her hunt is over. They reluctantly take her to Hades, where Sang meets Notra, a female monster who's wearing a very special ring! But before Sang can snatch Notra's ring, a group of humans from the Madosa Guild attack the school! A deadly battle ensues, and Sang fights alongside her new beastly buddies...

PHD
PHANTASY DEGREE

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Quest 22

TYOOO

A SEALING SPELL WILL CLOSE THE PORTAL TO THIS HELL!

IT IS...DONE. THE ENTRANCE IS FOREVER CLOSED.
PHEW!
CHIEF LANCE, A-ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
YES, BUT NO THANKS TO YOU, HENDUH.

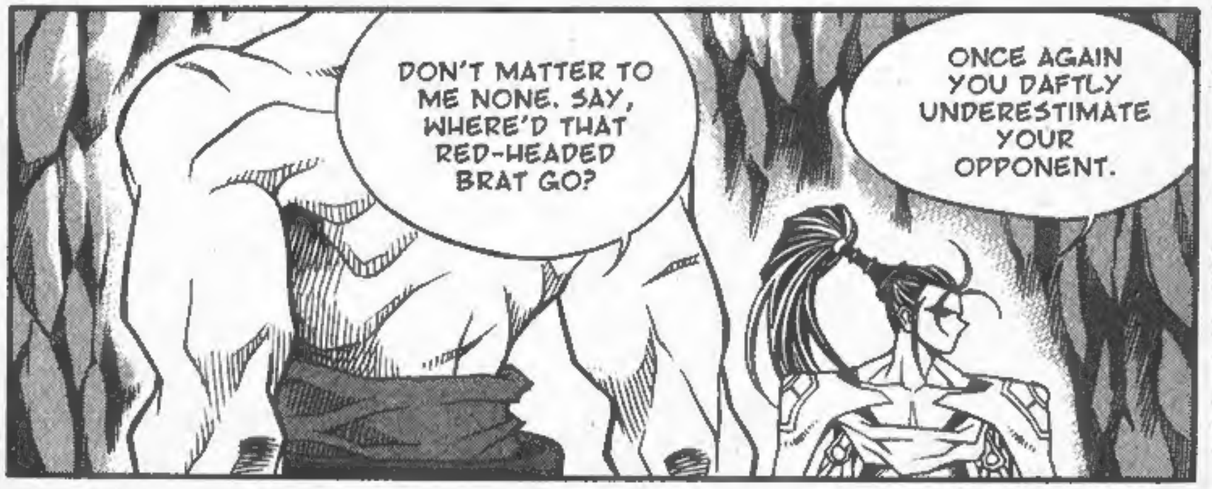
YEAH, BUT I... I HAD NO IDEA SEALING THE MAHGAE WAS SO DIFFICULT.
HOW IN HADES COULD THAT NYMPH MAHALISA HAVE SEALED IT?

TYPICAL, HENDUH. TYPICAL. MAHALISA MAY NOT BE RANKED WITHIN THE ORDER, BUT SHE STILL WEARS A SANCTIONED CREST.
UNLIKE YOU, SHE WAS MORE THAN CAPABLE OF SEALING THE ENTRANCE.

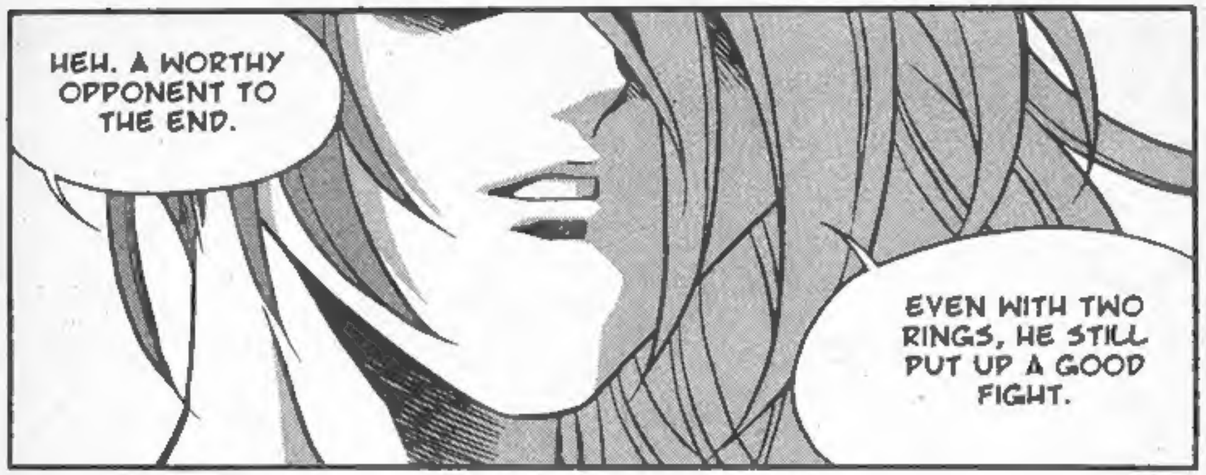
AND TELL ME, HENDUH, DO YOU WOO ALL OF YOUR FEMALE COMRADES?
WHAT CAN I SAY... I GO TO WHOEVER'S GOT THE CURVES.

CHEEKY!

WATCH YOUR TONGUE, HENDUH...OR I MIGHT JUST TAKE IT.
ESPECIALLY SINCE MAHALISA AND GELPA STILL HAVE BREATH LEFT IN THEIR BODIES.


DON'T MATTER TO ME NONE. SAY, WHERE'D THAT RED-HEADED BRAT GO?
ONCE AGAIN YOU DAFTLY UNDERESTIMATE YOUR OPPONENT.

타닷


HEH. A WORTHY OPPONENT TO THE END.
EVEN WITH TWO RINGS, HE STILL PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT.

퍽

DEV?!
DEV!!
타닷

DEV, GET UP! YOU'VE GOTTA GET UP!!
타닷
타닷타닷

COME ON, DEV! OPEN YOUR EYES!!

FAINTING

PLEASE...

KOOO--

Wait, his horns are back to normal.

GASP!

DON'T WORRY. HE'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS.

YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT! SO, WHY IN HADES DID YOU DO THIS, HUH?!

eek!

IT WAS THE *EASIEST* WAY TO SAVE ALL OF YOUR LIVES.

THAT SO? SAY, UM, MISTER... DO I *KNOW* YOU?

M-MISTER...?

GRIMACE

UGH! SEE?! NOW *THIS* IS WHY I HATE TAKING *OFF* ANY OF MY RINGS!

HUH?

WRIGGLE

WHAT ARE--?

EH?

ACK!

glance

glance

glance

I SHOULD BE USED TO TAKING OFF MY RINGS BY NOW, BUT IT *STILL* FEELS LIKE I'M GONNA HURL EVERY TIME.

puff

huff

SLP

SA-*SANG*?! IS THERE, UM, SOMETHING YOU HAVEN'T TOLD US YET?

WHAT YOU JUST SAID ABOUT SAVING LIVES, DID YOU MEAN HUMAN LIVES? OR THOSE OF MONSTERS?

HUH?

I TAKE IT THAT YOU LOT ARE DONE HERE.

OH MY GODDESS! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?!

BY HADES I AM! WHAT, YOU WANT ME DEAD OR SOMETHIN'?!

BWOOK

ooo

IF SO, THEN WE SHALL BE TAKING OUR LEAVE.

Huh? That runt's still alive?

WHY, EVERYONE, OF COURSE. HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?

DARN IT, GIRL! COVER YOURSELF!!

LANCE?

GRRR!

YOU... YOU BASTARD!!

LADY SANG, GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. SHALL YOU REQUIRE TRANSPORTATION?

I'LL PASS.

칠단

Hmph!

I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN MY REQUEST.

WOULDN'T BE MUCH POINT OF YOU *COVERING UP* MY PRESENCE HERE IF PRESIDENT HYUP SAW ME RETURN.

STILL THE SAME AS ALWAYS, I SEE.

...

GRRR!

I DON'T SEE ANY REASON WHY I HAVE TO OBEY ANY ORDERS.

TA

DA!

OH YEAH? WELL, *WITHOUT* THIS RING, PRESIDENT HYUP'S GONNA HAVE A *CONNIPTION* FIT, AIN'T HE?

BAH! ALL RIGHT! FINE!!

HUMPH!

BEHAVE, HENDUH.

NICE TOSS!

LOOK, I'M NOT ONE TO JUST HAND OVER STUFF EITHER, BUT A DEAL'S A DEAL.

CATCH

THEN I MUST DEPART NOW AS WELL. I HAVE OFFICERS THAT REQUIRE HEALING.

OH, LANCE, ONE SECOND! I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING!

YES, LADY SANG?

ABOUT THE DOOR TO THE MAHGAE, UM, WHICH ONE IS THIS ONE?

WHY, IT IS THE SIXTH ONE, OF COURSE.

WITH THIS CLOSING, ALL THE DOORS LEADING TO THE REDLANDS HAVE BEEN SEALED SHUT!

...

WHAT?!

ALL OF THEM?!

LANCE, IF YOU SO MUCH AS SEE THAT BASTARD...

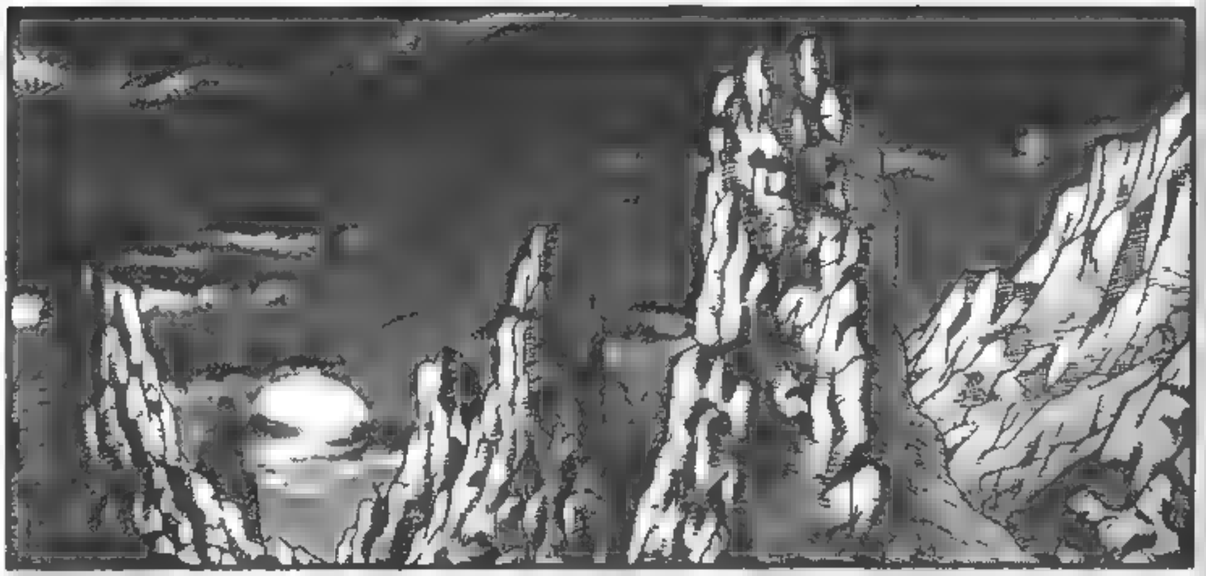
...I WANT YOU TO TELL HIM THIS FOR ME...

TELL HIM, "THE BET ISN'T OVER YET."

...

WITHOUT FAIL, LADY SANG, I SHALL RELAY THAT MESSAGE.

YOU WORTHLESS HUMAN! YOU'VE BEEN ON THEIR SIDE THIS WHOLE TIME?!
I KNOW HOW THIS MUST LOOK...
...BUT, NOTRA, EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T EXPLAIN ANY OF THIS
...JUST TRUST ME WHEN I SAY THAT...
...I WANT THOSE BASTARDS STOPPED NO MATTER WHAT!



DEV? YOU READY?

WE SHOULD GET GOING.

JUST GIVE ME ANOTHER MINUTE.

I HAVEN'T FINISHED SEEING THE GUYS OFF YET.

MORDICUS, SOME PARTY THAT TIME, HUH?

AND PANNUS, YOU CHICK MAGNET YOU.

HEY, LUKAN. CHIN UP, BUDDY.

AND, OH YEAH...
YOU TWO. UH, REST IN PEACE.

THEIR NAMES ARE CHRIS AND HAMMER, YOU UN-GRATEFUL CUR!
THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS TRY TO REMEMBER YOUR CLASSMATE'S NAMES FOR ONCE!!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY SO MANY DEMONS HATED YOU!

TENSION!

WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?

I could think of a few things.

HEY, BRO...

HOW ARE THINGS HANGIN'?

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? YOU'RE LOOKIN' KINDA TIRED THERE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S NOTHING.

JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS I HAVE TO DO.

BUT YOU SKIPPED CLASS AGAIN AND AND IT WAS LIKE YOU JUST VANISHED

THAT WORTHLESS COUNTRY'S FAMED CAPTAIN

...THE SO-CALLED HOLY SPIRIT OF WOMEN...

...

DEV.

HUH? WH-WHAT?

ALL THE WATER IN THE WORLD COULDN'T WASH THE BLOOD FROM MY HANDS

...AND EVEN THAT MONSTER...MEDUSA. ALL DEAD AT MY HANDS.

THEY ALL SHOWED SUCH *IMMENSE* POWER...

BUT THEY USED IT TO SUPPRESS DEMONS...THEY *HAD* TO *DIE*.

BUT ISN'T THAT LIKE CAUSE AND EFFECT, THOUGH?

DEV, WE'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM THEM.

NOT REALLY SURE. I DON'T *NOT* LIKE THEM. I JUST HAVEN'T EVER REALLY BEEN AROUND 'EM, I GUESS.

HEH. THAT'S TRUE.

CAN I ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME?

HUMANS AND DEMONS...FOR GENERATIONS WE'VE EACH TRIED TO WIPE ONE ANOTHER OUT.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT'S OUR *DESTINY*.

SO, DEV, I'LL ASK YOU THIS...

DO YOU HATE HUMANS AS WELL?

EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T DEVIATE FROM MY POSITION OR RESPONSIBILITIES, I'D LIKE FOR YOU--

HEY, IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO *HATE* HUMANS, JUST SAY SO.

I'M JUST NOT GONNA IGNORE 'EM IF THEY ATTACK ME, GOT IT?

THAT'S FINE.

IF YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE, THEN THAT'S ACCEPTABLE.

UH, OKAY.

BUT, DEV...

...AS YOUR BROTHER... YOU SHOULD KNOW...

...I'M ALREADY FIGHTING THE FIGHT.

D-DEV?

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, BIG BROTHER? SAVE 'EM OR KILL 'EM?

DEV, YOU KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE!!

THIS CALLS FOR ***BLOOD!*** WE ***MUST*** AVENGE THE DEATHS OF THOSE WHO'VE ***FALLEN*** TODAY!!

OUR FRIENDS ARE ALREADY ***GONE.***

IT'S TOO LATE, KATANA. WE ***MISSED*** OUR CHANCE BY NOT PROTECTING THEM.

DON'T KID YOURSELF! EVEN IF WE HAVE TO *INCREASE* OUR STRENGTH, THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO!!

INCREASE OUR STRENGTH? HOW IN *HADES* ARE YOU EXPECTING TO DO THAT?! THE MAHGAE'S SEALED, *REMEMBER?!*

SIX DEAD DEMONS MAY BE A DROP IN THE BUCKET COMPARED TO THE NUMBER WITHIN THE MAHGAE...

BUT WE'RE NOW *OFFICIALLY* TRAPPED HERE. AND THAT IS *DEFINITELY* NOT A GOOD THING.

BOTH OF YOU CUT IT OUT! THAT'S NOT OUR *BIGGEST* CONCERN NOW!!

GRRR.

WHAT ABOUT MIDDLE EARTH?

MY MOTHER USED TO TELL ME STORIES ABOUT A COMMAND POST *FORTIFIED* WITH NOTHING BUT DEMONS. I SAY WE SEARCH THEM OUT.

MAYBE SANG WAS RIGHT, THOUGH MAYBE SINCE THE DOORS WERE SEALED, THIS IS AS FAR AS THE DEVASTATION GOES.

THIS PLACE WASN'T EVER JUST ABOUT HOUSING A GATEWAY...IT WAS ABOUT TRAINING STUDENTS.

WE *HAVE* TO TELL THEM ABOUT WHAT TRANSPIRED TODAY.

HEY, WHERE'S THAT GIRL, SANG, ANYWAY?

NO CLUE. SHE DISAPPEARED RIGHT AFTER THOSE *OTHER* HUMANS LEFT.

Where in Hades did that girl run off to?

Better yet, whose side is she on?

STEAMED BOAR...

APPLE DUMPLINGS...

stumble

FRIED NOODLES...

UNNH, MAYBE THAT BRANCH IS EDIBLE.

PANT PANT

OH GODS, JUST GIVE ME SOMETHIN' TA EAT!!

HUNGER PANGS!

YEP.

NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY. NEXT ADVENTURE, HERE I COME!

TEE HEE!

Quest 24

STARE

MMMP?

KAAA AH!!!

HEY, WAIT A--WHAT DO YOU-- ACK!

FOOD! FOOD!! OMIGOD, FOOD!!!

MUNCH

HEY, BUSTER, GIMME THAT BACK! I AIN'T FINISHED!!

AND THAT I WAS SAVING FOR LAST!!

...

...

GYAH! HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE SHE ATE?!

SHE KEEPS THIS UP AND I MIGHT JUST HAVE TO PUT HER DOWN!

SORRY, GUYS, LOOKS LIKE THIS IS HOW IT'S GOTTA BE!!

와드르

와드득

BETTER IN MY BELLY THAN HERS!!

와구와구

와구와구

CHOMP

...

쭈— slurp

쩝쩝쩝

CHOMP

HEY, UM, PIGTAILS...HOW LONG YOU BEEN IN THIS HERE FOREST?

URM, ABOUT TWO DAYS.

WOULDN'T KNOW A WAY OUTTA HERE, WOULD YA?

LIKE A TRAIL OR SOMETHIN'?

YOU KNOW, ANYTHIN' AT ALL?

YOU THINK IF I KNEW THAT I'D BE SITTING HERE RIGHT NOW? I'M AS LOST AS YOU.

LOST TOO, HUH? OH WELL, I'M SURE IF WE KEEP LOOKIN', SOMETH'N'LL TURN UP, RIGHT?

YOU HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO LAST US UNTIL THEN?

SOWWY, THITH ITH THE LATH OTH IT.

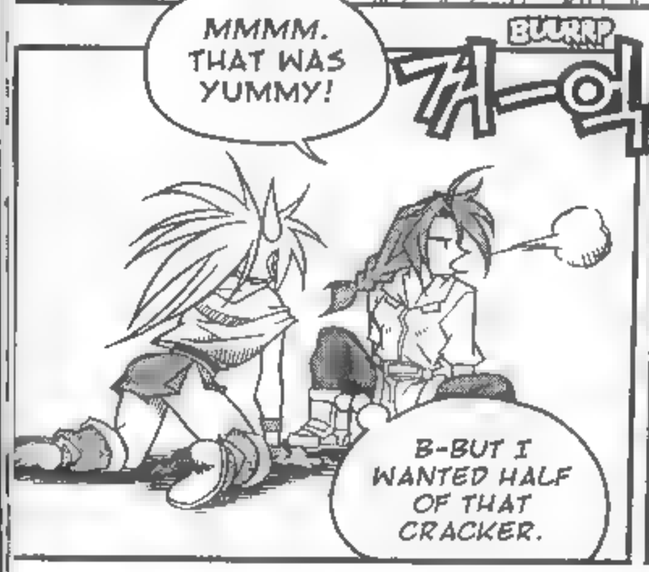
냠냠

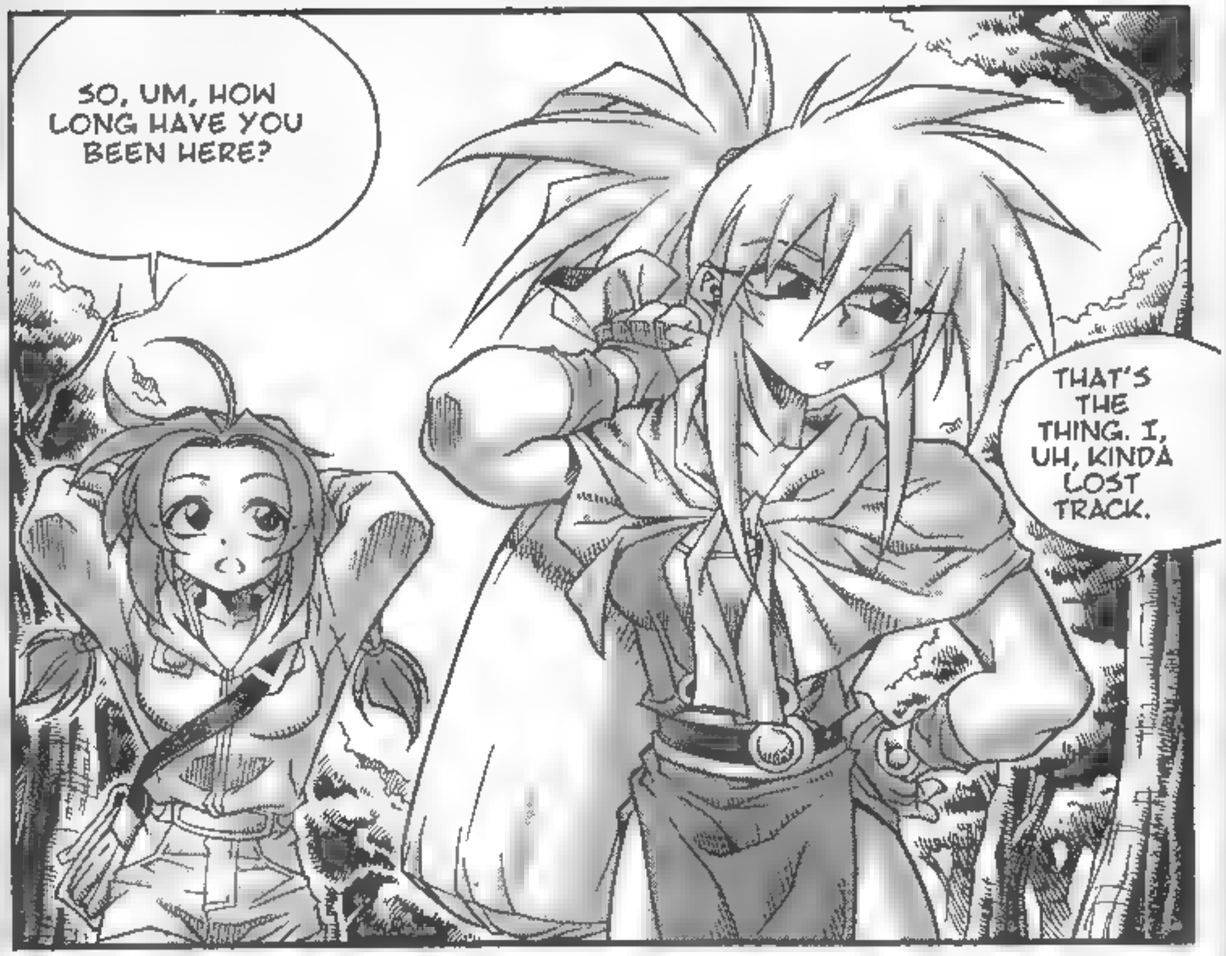
MNNCH MNNCH

으음
으음

ARGH! FOOD!! GIMMIE!!!
NOPE!
CHOMP

RAGE
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW LONG WE'RE GONNA BE HERE! HOW COULD YOU EAT ALL OUR FOOD LIKE THAT?!
WHAT'S ALL THIS "WE" STUFF?


MMMM. THAT WAS YUMMY!
BUURRP
B-BUT I WANTED HALF OF THAT CRACKER.


SO, UM, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?
THAT'S THE THING. I, UH, KINDA LOST TRACK.

WOW, CAN'T TELL TIME, DIRECTIONS OR COOK. YOU'RE SOME PIECE OF WORK.
ANYTHIN' ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD, LIL' MISS FOOD HOG?

YEP! YOU JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!
ME AND DIRECTIONS GO TOGETHER LIKE PEACHES AND CREAM!

HOO HOO

타닥 타

"PEACHES AND CREAM" MY *STARVIN'* BUTT! YOU'RE AS *LOST* AS I AM!!

CHILL OUT! WE'RE PROBABLY ON THE OUTSKIRTS AS IT IS.

WE JUST CAMP TONIGHT AND WE'LL BE AT A VILLAGE IN NO TIME!

HUH?

HEY, RED? UH, GOT A QUESTION FOR YA.

QUESTION?

THIS, UH, THIS BONE... DOESN'T IT LOOK KINDA, UM, *FAMILIAR?*

LIKE, ONE FROM THIS MORN N'.

...

EH, LET'S TALK ABOUT ALL THAT UNIMPORTANT STUFF TOMORROW, 'KAY? NIGHT!

"UNIMPORTANT"? *UNIMPORTANT ?!*

HEY, DON'T *YOU FALL ASLEEP ON ME!!*

CROGGY

UNNH, MORNIN' ALREADY?

BETWEEN THE BUGS AND THE COLD, YOU'D THINK CAMPING WOULD MAKE YOU SLEEP LESS, BUT NOOO.

부스럭

SO, UM, I CAUGHT 'EM, THINK YA CAN COOK 'EM?

AIN'T GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT, DO YA?

HUH? WHERE'D THAT GLUTTONOUS PIG LADY GET OFF TO?

두리번

I...I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TRYING TO IMPRESS WITH THOSE TWO LITTLE FUR BALLS?

WHA?

두근두근

TREMBLE

LOOK WHO'S TALKING, MISS SLEEPS 'TIL NOON.

HERE, I CAUGHT BREAKFA-- ER, LUNCH.

IF YOU'RE GONNA CATCH *ANYTHING*, YOU BETTER CATCH US A FREAKIN' BEAR!!

Hmph!

ME? A BEAR? WHO ARE YOU KIDDIN'? CATCH IT *YOURSELF*.

어기적

ANNOYED

YOU KNOWN, RED, KEEPIN' AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS IS FUN AND ALL...

..BUT I KINDA STILL DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME. SO, UM, WHAT IS IT ANYWAY?

By the gods... that ring!

SANG.

AND YOU?

Could this mean that she's a ring keeper as well? A Retainer?

CHUN-LANG.

OH!!!

AS IN, ***SWORDMASTER*** CHUN-LANG, THAT IS. BUT ***BRAVE WARRIOR*** CHUN-LANG WORKS, TOO!

Quest 25

WOOHOO!!

WHOA.

CHECK IT OUT! NOW *THAT'S* WHAT I CALL A LAKE!!

HEY, DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

GAAAH!

SO, CHUN-LANG, HOW LONG'S IT BEEN SINCE YOU HAD A BATH?!

WHAT IN BLAZES IS WRONG WITH YOU? BEING A FREE SPIRIT IS COOL AND ALL, BUT SHEESH!

LA DI DA DA

HEY, YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE, SAY, A MAP OR COMPASS BY ANY CHANCE?

DO YA?

NO, SANG! STOP! STOP DOING THAT!!

JUST LISTEN TO ME! WE'VE GOTTA--*OOF!!*

OUCH! WHY THAT LITTLE BRAT.

GERONIMO!!

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR NO *STINKIN'* BATH...

YA HEAR?!

...

끙끙

COME ON, CHUN-LANG! THE WATER'S JUST RIGHT!!

N-N-NO THANKS! I'M ALL RIGHT!!

화들

BUT YOU HAVEN'T HAD A *DECENT* BATH IN A WHILE, RIGHT? DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF FEELING ALL ICKY?

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS! AND WHAT'S MY PERSONAL HYGIENE TO YOU, HUH?!

I'M JUST GONNA SIT *RIGHT HERE* WHILE YOU KEEP DOIN' WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE DOIN'.

...

Well, mom was right. Breadcrumbs make for lousy trail markers...

...especially when you eat the bread.

That presence...it's coming from behind me...

...but...but there's no one there.

AAAHH!!

휙

휙

휙

고오

쿠오오오

WHO DO YOU THINK'S SCARING WHO, HUH?! YOU'RE THE ONE WAVIN' THAT SWORD AROUND!!

EEK!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I GUESS I'M JUST GETTIN' A LITTLE JUMPY HERE!

Huff! Huff!

IS THAT SO? SAY, CHUN-LANG, COME HERE!

포스스

...

HUH? SANG?!

WHY YOU... DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!

EH HEH, UH--

HMM? UH, W-WHY?

WILL YA JUST TURN AROUND FOR A SECOND?!

OKAY, NOW WHAT?

HOLD YOUR HANDS UP.

LIKE .. THIS?

SAY, HOW COME YOU KEPT YOUR GLOVES ON IN THE WATER?

...

TOSS

OH, THIS REASON

W-W-W-W- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!

HEH HEH!

DO YOU KNOW HOW *IMPORTANT* THAT RING IS?!

WOW, TALK ABOUT SPASTIC.

TWAP

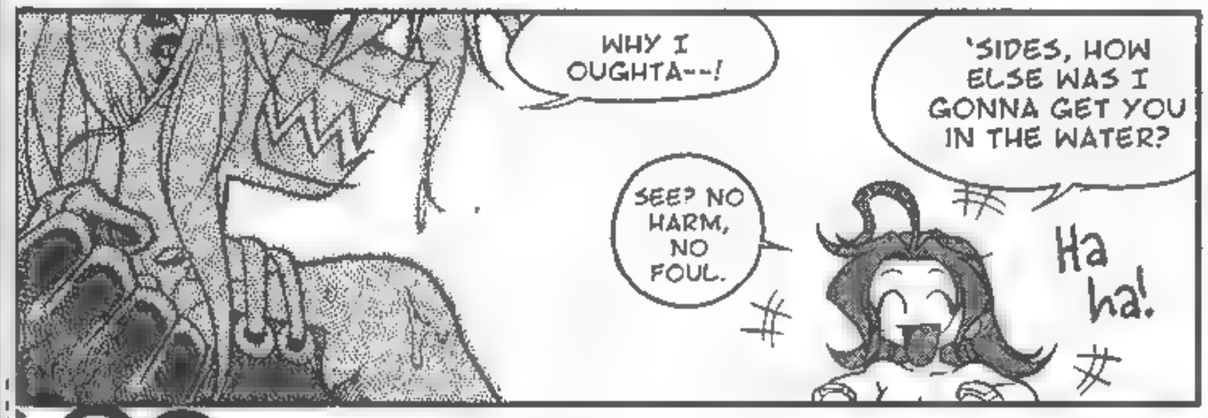
GOTCHA!!

PANT

MY...MY PRECIOUS, YOU'RE--!!

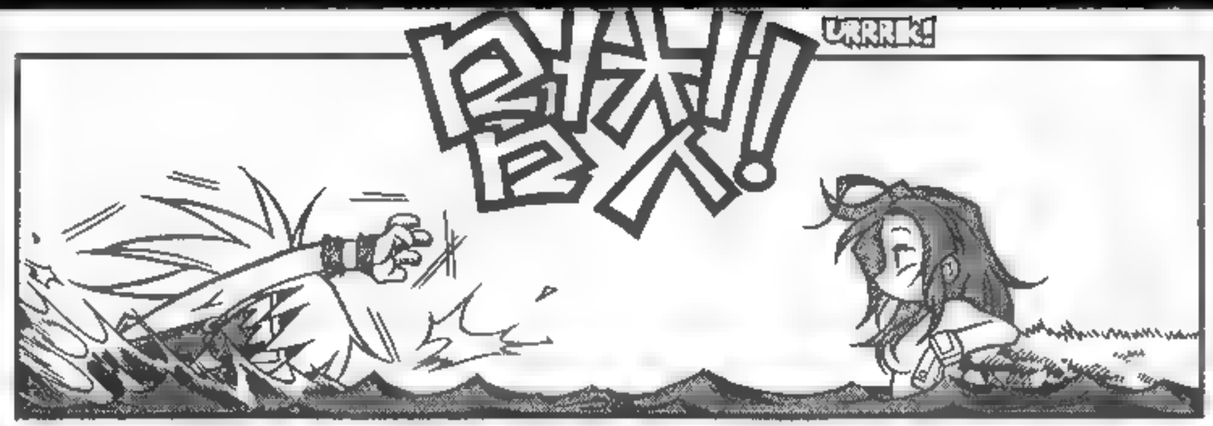
HA!

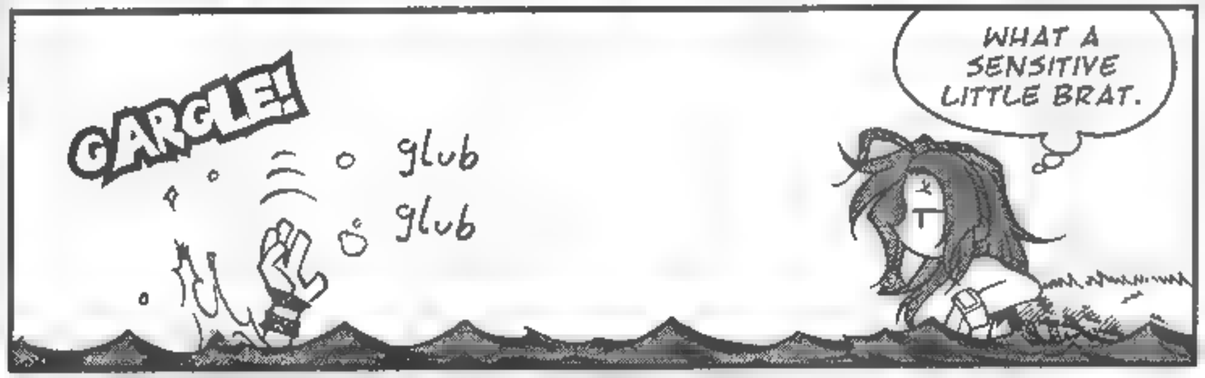
YOU LOOKIN' FOR THIS?
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE. HEE HEE HEE.


WHY I OUGHTA--!
'SIDES, HOW ELSE WAS I GONNA GET YOU IN THE WATER?
SEE? NO HARM, NO FOUL.
Ha ha!

I'M GONNA KILL YOU FOR THAT!!
BEFORE YOU DO THAT, I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK...

HOW COME YOU DIDN'T CHANGE INTO A MAN?


BAM!
URRRK!


GARGLE!
glub
glub
WHAT A SENSITIVE LITTLE BRAT.

THAT'S SO WEIRD.
THESE RINGS ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WEARER'S GENDER, BUT WHEN YOU TAKE THEM OFF, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CHANGE BACK.
DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HAD IT OFF.

BY THE GODS! SANG, BEHIND YOU!!

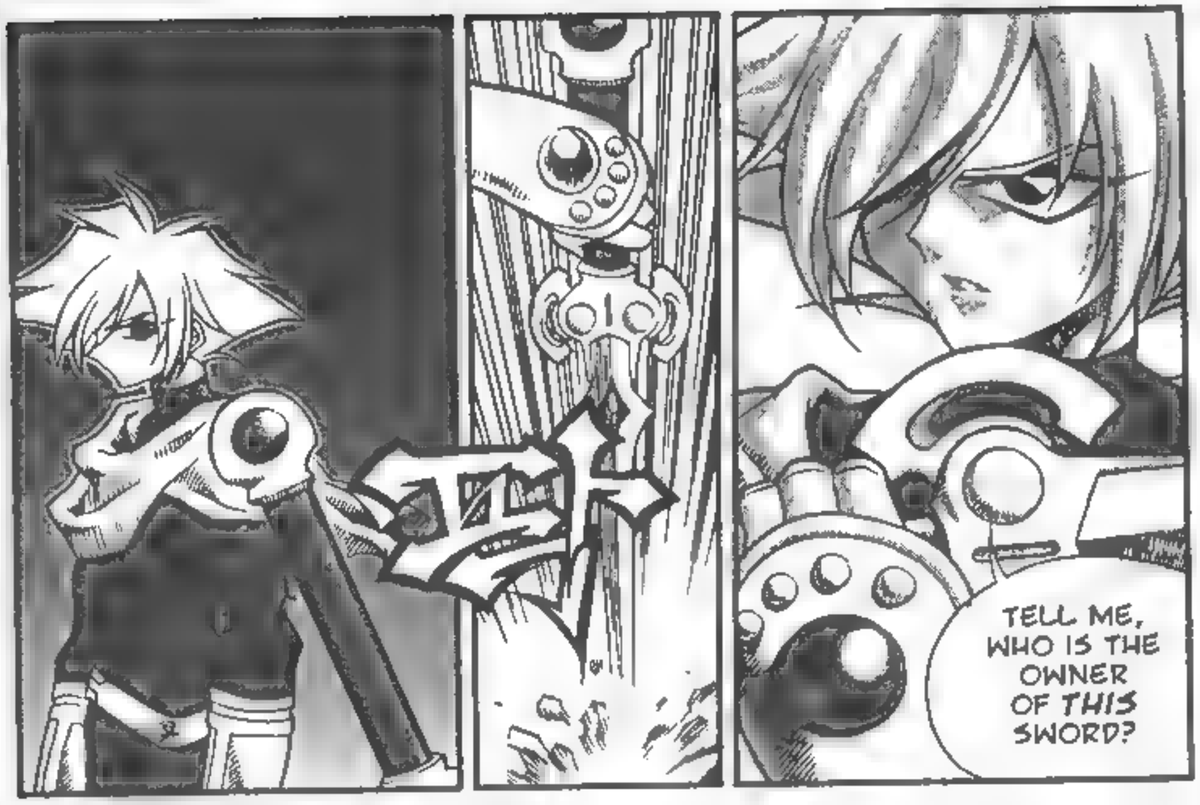
HUH?

Quest 26

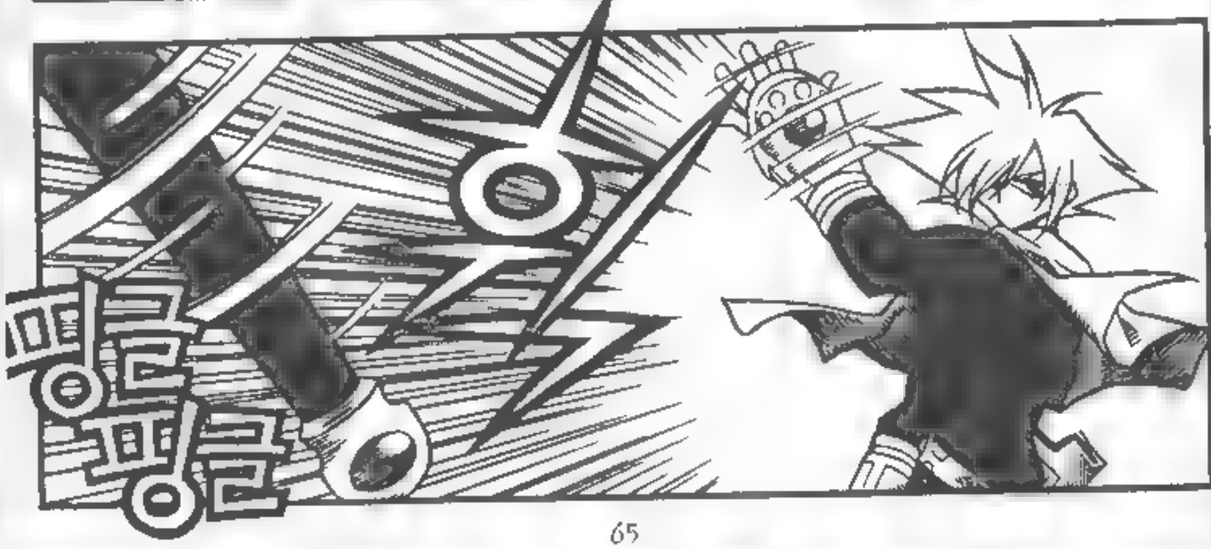
HEH. EH?

EEEK!! WH-WHERE THE HECK DID YOU COME FROM?!

WAS HIS PRESENCE THE ONE I JUST SENSED?
YES, I'LL BET DOUBLE OR NOTHING IT WAS.


TELL ME, WHO IS THE OWNER OF THIS SWORD?

LOOK, JUST TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT AND LEAVE, GOT IT?!
GIRL, YOU SERIOUSLY NEED TO WORK ON THOSE PEOPLE SKILLS.



TAKE YOUR SWORD AND COME ONTO LAND!

FINE, I'M HERE. WHAT IS IT THAT *YOU* WANT?

THAT BASTARD...

...

TWO SWORDSMEN HAVE MET...WHAT *MORE* IS THERE TO SAY?

THIS IS A *DUEL*, AFTER ALL!

BUT YOU JUST MET! ISN'T THAT A LITTLE... SUDDEN?!

ARE YOU A *GLADIATOR?*

NOT THAT I'M DECLINING OR ANYTHING, BUT WHAT IF I *REALLY* DON'T FEEL UP TO THIS CHALLENGE?

ムダー

YOU KNOW, I'M NOT REALLY ONE FOR CONTESTS. SO, UM, WHAT DO I GET FOR BEATIN' YA?

YOU *CAN'T* SAY YOU'RE NOT GONNA FIGHT AND THEN SAY YOU'RE *GONNA* WIN. MAKE UP YOUR MIND ALREADY.

FINE, I'LL WIPE THE FLOOR WITH HIM, HAPPY?

OH, IN THAT CASE, THEN HOW ABOUT HE SHOWS US HOW TO GET OUTTA HERE, SINCE YOU'RE *WINNIN'* AND ALL.

HEH HEH!

PIPE DOWN, YOU! AND QUIT MAKIN' UP PRIZES OVER THERE!

HEY, MISTER, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE IF *YOU* WIN?

WHAT'D I JUST SAY ABOUT KEEPIN' OUT OF THIS?!

ハイ

SMILE

ANGRY

THE LOSER FACES *DEATH*, WHILE THE WINNER TAKES ON *GLORY* AND FURTHER LIFE!

THIS IS THE WAY OF THE *WARRIOR*... NO *OTHER* CONDITIONS NEED APPLY!

WH-WHAT?!

HERE, CHUN-LANG! CATCH!!

THIS BETTER NOT BE ANOTHER ROCK!!

BYE, CHUN-LANG! NICE KNOWIN' YA!!

HEY, HOLD UP! AT LEAST GIVE ME MY RING BACK!!

찰밥 찰밥

HMPH! AND HERE I WAS JUST PLANNING ON SNEAKING OFF.

I MIGHT NOT FEEL LIKE FIGHTIN', BUT I WON'T DECLINE EITHER.

HUMPH!

Hmm, could it be that he's the only survivor from his group?

HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

THAT RING'S WORTH MORE 'AN YOUR HIDE!!

OH!!

TO A SWORDMASTER, ANYTHING MORE THAN ONE'S *SWORD* IS OF *LITTLE* CONSEQUENCE.

DEPENDING ON SIMPLE *TRINKETS* REFLECTS A *LACK* OF RESPECT FOR THE SWORD AND REVEALS A *WEAK* HEART.

WHAT WERE YOU *PLANNING* ON DOING WITH THAT RING, ANYWAY?

AFTER ALL, THE *DEAD* HAVE LITTLE NEED FOR JEWELRY.

KEEP TALKIN' WHILE YOU STILL CAN. 'CAUSE YOU'RE GOIN' DOWN!!

SANG, GET TO SWIMMIN'! I WANT THAT RING!!

YEAH, YEAH! ALREADY ON IT!!

All she does is just yap yap yap

OTHER THAN THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THE WEARER'S GENDER, RINGS ALSO INCREASE THE WEARER'S STRENGTH TENFOLD!

I STILL DON'T GET HOW, BUT CHUN-LANG MUST BE PLANNING ON FIGHTING AS A GIRL!

HAAAH!

AT LEAST .

...THEY'LL BE SQUARING OFF ON THE SAME LEVEL, THEN.

END

SHE'S NOT GONNA UP AND LOSE BEFORE I FIND THAT RING, IS SHE?

WAIT, WHAT'S THAT THERE...?

AH HA! BINGO!!

SHEEE

DAARGH!!

I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE GOOD FORM TO KNOW EACH OTHER'S NAMES BEFORE WE FIGHT

WHY DON'T YOU GO FIRST, THEN?

I AM HWEE-YOUNG.

I AM A WARRIOR READY TO LAY MY LIFE ON THE LINE FOR HONOR.

GOOD TO KNOW

OH WELL, I GUESS THAT MAKES ME SWORDMASTER CHUN-LANG, THEN.

Quest 27

NOW, SHALL WE...?

ALL THIS TALK'S MAKIN' ME KINDA ANTSY!!

THE HELL

GASP!!

AH, JEEZ. AND HERE I WENT TO ALL THIS *TROUBLE* JUST TO FIND THIS THING.

NO RESPECT, I TELL YA NO RESPECT

HEY, CHUN-LANG, HERE! I FOUND YOUR RING!!

EH? WHAT HAPPENED?

WHERE'D EVERYONE GO?

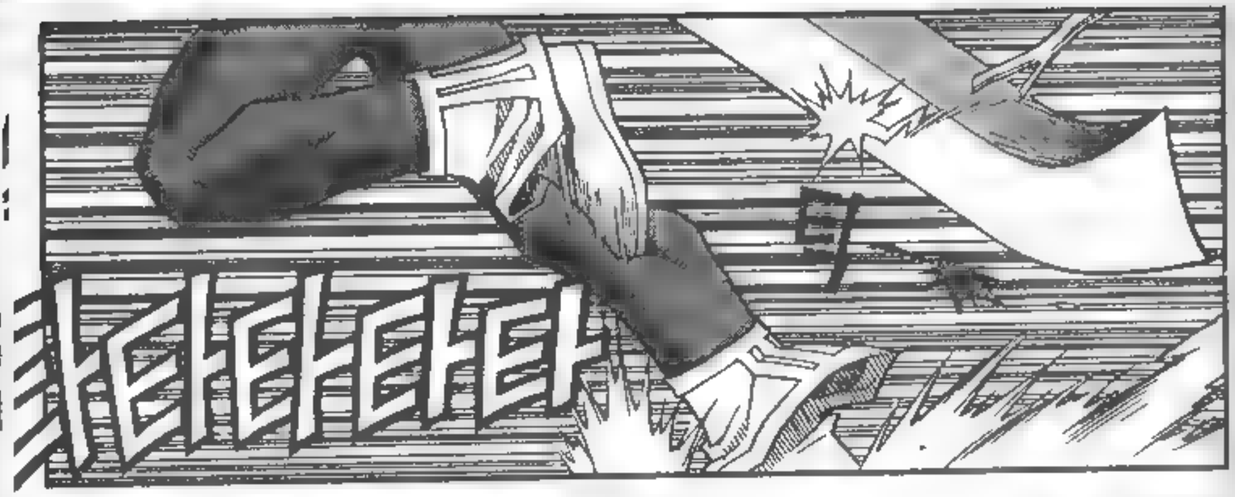
YOOHOO! SWORD FIGHTING WEIRDOS?!

UGH, DID THEY CHANGE LOCATIONS AND NOT TELL ME OR SOMETHING?

OH WELL, MIGHT AS WELL GET DRESSED

HUH?

THOSE...THOSE BASTARDS!!


EEEEEEE!

NO!

STOMP

UNNFF!

WHAT?!

PERFECT! I KNOCK ENOUGH TREES DOWN AND I MIGHT JUST PIN HIM!!

HMPH! CARELESS FOOL.

...

BY THE GODS--

WHA!

AH HA HA! PATHETIC!!

BLADE BLAST!!

AARGH! IT'S GONNA TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO KILL ME!!

SURE, I CAN SENSE THINGS TO A CERTAIN DEGREE...

...BUT THIS GUY'S ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PLAYING FIELD!

LIKE A RAT, YOU DART AROUND MEANINGLESSLY!

HAVE YOU NO *HONOR*?! STAND STILL AND FACE ME!!

CRAP, IF THAT'S WHAT HE'S WANTIN'...

...THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO!

BUT NOOOO.

I'M OUT HERE DODGING BLOWS FROM SOME NUTZOID SOLDIER BOY WHO WANTS ME DEAD INSTEAD OF IN BED! SHEESH, WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO?

WELL, ANYWAY, SANG SHOULD'VE FOUND MY RING BY NOW.

YEAH, THE ONE THING I'M CONFIDENT ABOUT IS MY SPEED.

BACK IN THE VILLAGE, I WAS A TRACK QUEEN...

AND THIS SHOULD BUY ME ABOUT...

RUUUUUUN!!!

YOU SPINELESS COWARD!

UGH! SANG, IF I GET OUTTA THIS *ALIVE*, YOU'RE *DEAD*!!

IF YOU HADN'T STARTED PLAYING WITH MY RING, THEN I COULD'VE WHUPPED THIS *LOSER* BY NOW!!

...FIVE--

EEEK!!

SO MUCH FOR THAT PLAN!!
WEREN'T YOU TRYING TO RETURN TO YOUR BATHING COMPANION?
EH?
UH, AND IF I AM?
FOR YOUR INFORMATION...
THE LAKE HAPPENS TO BE BACK THAT WAY.
SHOULDA KNOWN YOU'D HAVE THE SPEED...
...TO MATCH THAT STRENGTH OF YOURS.
...
...
OOPS, UH...WAS WONDERING WHY THIS PLACE WAS LOOKIN' KINDA FAMILIAR.
I WAS, UH, JUST, UH... YEAH.

THANKS FOR THE DIRECTIONS, BUB!

KICK

BUT I'M GOIN' ANOTHER WAY!!

AARGH!!

CRAP, HERE I GO, RUNNIN' WITHOUT THINKIN' AGAIN!!

JUST HOW AM I GONNA GET MY RING BACK NOW?!

ALL RIGHT, CHUN-LANG. WE JUST NEED TO STOP AND RETHINK--

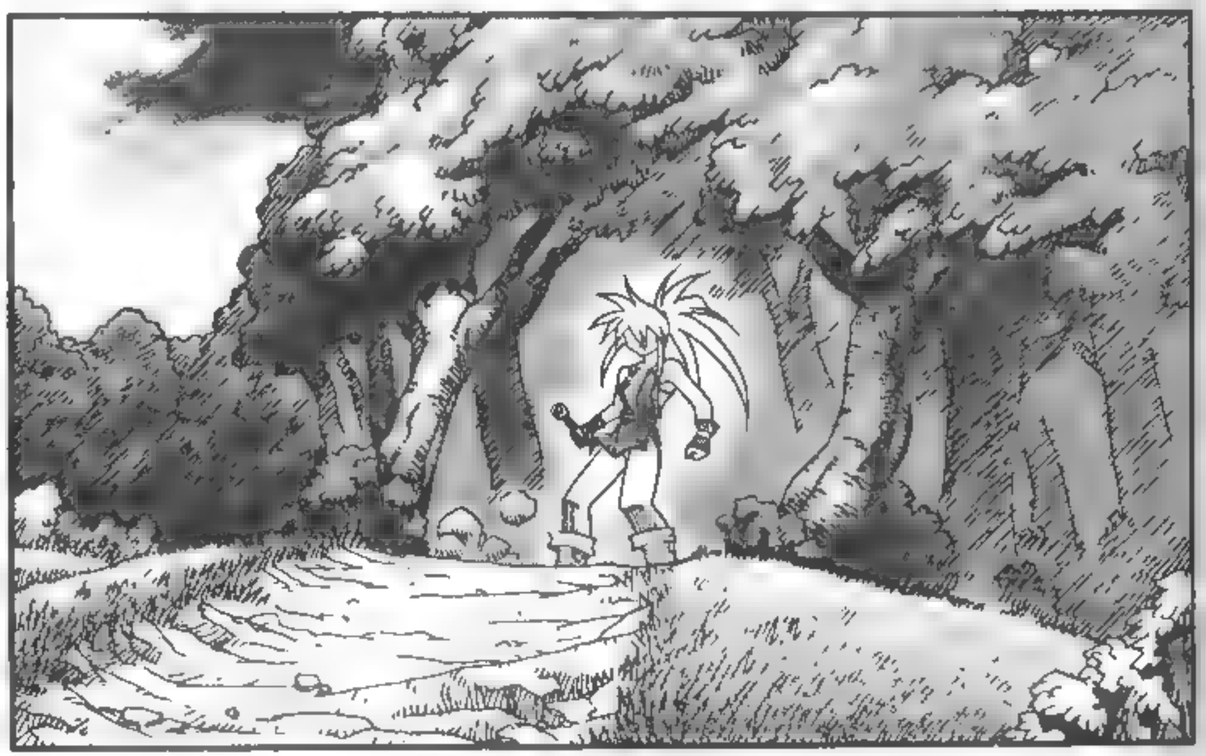
HUH?!

A P-PRAIRIE? AND A TRAIL...?

YOU MEAN I'M OUTTA THE FOREST?! HOT DANG! 'BOUT TIME!!

Heh?

WAIT... IS THIS A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING?



UH OH! I BETTER NOT JUST STAND HERE LIKE THIS!!

MISTER PSYCHO MIGHT BE...!

Quest 28

AND HE'S... NOT THERE.

WITH THAT GUY'S SPEED, HE SHOULD'VE CAUGHT UP WITH ME BY NOW.

COWARD!

"COWARD"?

WHO?

ME?

WHAT FOR?

HUH!

OH MAN, THAT'S *JUST* MY LUCK.

I FINALLY GET OUT OF THAT DUMB OL' FOREST AND NOW...

...I GOTTA GO RIGHT BACK IN THERE!

타박 타박

GRUMBLE

OH, DON'T YOU START RUMBLIN' NOW, TOO.

I KNOW WE HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL SINCE YESTERDAY... I *KNOW*.

OK OK

IT'S NOT FAIR, I TELL YA!

OH WELL. AS LONG AS I LEAVE A FEW MARKERS, I'M SURE I'LL FIGURE A WAY OUT THIS TIME.

ALL RIGHT, FINE. IT'S A GIVEN THAT THE SWORD GUY'LL SHOW UP AGAIN.

YES, YES...I'LL FIND US SOMETHIN' TO EAT. OH GREAT, I'M TALKIN' TO MYSELF AGAIN.

뚜리번 저리번

HUH?

SMOKE?!

THAT MIGHT MEAN SOMEBODY ELSE IS CAMPING OUT HERE!

HUH

WAIT A SEC.

WHAT'S A *HOUSE* DOIN' IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST?!

EH, WHO CARES?! THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY!!

OOO, IF I'M A GOOD LITTLE GIRL, MAYBE THEY'LL GIMME SOME GRUB!

UM, HELLO? EXCUSE ME, UM, IS ANYONE THERE?

HELLOOO?

AH, DON'T TELL ME THEY STEPPED OUT.

MWA HA HA HA HA!!

EXTRACT OF MANDRAKE...LEGS OF A CENTIPEDE... MUCUS OF A STONE TROLL... YES, *YEEES!!*

BOIL, BOIL, TOIL AND, WELL, ALL THAT JAZZ. YES, SOON...*SOON* YOU SHALL BE COMPLETE, MY LOVE!

LET'S SEE NOW, UP NEXT IS...

AH HA! GIANT ANT GIBLETS MARINATED IN TWO TABLESPOONS OF VAMPIRE'S BLOOD!

SIMPLY MARVELOUS!

YES, THAT'S IT. COME TO A BOIL FOR PAPA.

YES, PAPA LOVES YOU, MY SWEET. YES, YOU JUST SIT THERE AND LEAVE IT ALL UP TO ME.

UM, YOOHOO?

And now for the gryffin's toenail and the fairy's excrement! Muz ha ha ha!

PRETTY GIRL AT THREE O'CLOCK. DROP WHAT YOU'RE DOIN'!

JEEZ, NOT EVEN SO MUCH AS A NOD.

I BET IF I WERE A STARVIN' GUY, YOU'D HELP ME IN A HEARTBEAT.

So hungry

Pout

HOLY COW! *A STEAK!!*

PERFECT! NOW FOR THE MAIN INGREDIENT...

MUSCLE MEAT OF A RED DRAGON!!

...

EEEK!

Y-Y-YOU THERE! UH, WHA-WHA- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

DO YOU HAVE *ANY* IDEA HOW *RARE* THAT MEAT IS TO COME BY?!

FUNNY, IT KINDA TASTES LIKE LEATHER.

MUNCH

YOU IDIOT! THE SACRED RED DRAGON IS *EXTINCT!!*

I STALKED THAT BEAST FOR FOUR DAYS *TRYING* TO PROCURE THAT SAMPLE! IT *ALMOST* COST MY LIFE!!

MISTER, THIS HERE SOUP IS LOOKIN' A LITTLE *SKIMPY.*

WHAT KIND WERE YOU MAKIN' AGAIN?

PLIP

IT'S NOT BAD. A LITTLE PLAIN.

COULD USE A LITTLE SALT, THOUGH.

SLURRP

GET YOUR *GRUBBY* MITTS OUT OF THAT!!

THAT SOUP'S *NOT* FOR EATING!!

IF I HAD 'EM, I'D GIVE MY AUNTIE'S RECIPES TO YA.

BUT LUCKY FOR YOU, THESE CONDIMENTS'LL *MORE* THAN MAKE UP FOR IT!!

Salt

PEPPER

SUGAR

WAIT, WHA- WHA-WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*

DON'T STICK THAT IN-- *BWOOF!!*

BLAH! STILL TOO GREASY! THIS PUPPY NEEDS MORE SALT, PRONTO!

Ah, Hades! Garlic, onions, sesame oil... anythin' to kill that taste!

HMM...STILL A LITTLE TOO RICH.

MAYBE I SHOULD CUT IT WITH SOME MORE WATER.

AWRIGHTY, THIS SHOULD DO!

카라

NO!!! DON'T POUR IT ALL IN!!

THAT'S LEGENDARY *PAPOU FRUIT!* YOU'RE ONLY SUPPOSED TO USE A *CUP!!*

TRUST ME, THIS SOUP OF YOURS NEEDS *SOMETHIN'* TO KILL THE TASTE.

Y-Y-YOU HOME-WRECKING NYMPH!!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

I'M STILL GONNA SHARE IT WITH YA.

BUT FIRST, A TASTE TEST.

YOU IMPUDENT LITTLE BRAT!!

HAVE YOU *ANY* IDEA THE SPELL YOU'VE JUST *RUINED*?!

NO CLUE, BUT I DON'T *NORMALLY* SPEND ALL AFTERNOON COOKING. SO, UH, BE GRATEFUL.

하?

GRATEFUL ?!

HUH?

YEAH, GRATEFUL. BECAUSE, WELL...SEE?

WE'VE GOT THIS *HUUUGE* POT OF SOUP TO SHARE! *HEE HEE.*

GIRL, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN *FAR BETTER* HAD THE EXPERIMENT JUST FAILED!

BUT YOU...YOU'VE *UNLEASHED* UNTOLD *HORRORS* UNTO THIS WORLD!!

HEY, MY COOKIN'S NOT *THAT* BAD. SURE, IT KINDA SMELLS, BUT AT LEAST IT *TASTES* GOOD.

EH?

N.RRRUUUHHH!

OKAY, NEVER HAD MY COOKIN' COME TO LIFE BEFORE. UH, IS THAT BAD?

munch munch

KYYYAAAAAHHH!!!

HUH? WHAT WAS THAT?

Got food stained in place, you wouldn't dream

Quest 29

EH HEH.

UH, N-NICE... MONSTER.

Wanna cookie?

MRRUUUHA!

HEY, UM, MISTER?!

UH, WHAT EXACTLY'S GOIN' ON HERE?!

POOF!

Aaaaand off the balcony

MRRAAAAAAH!

UH, OLD MAN? YOU THERE?

HEY, YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE ME *ALONE* WITH THIS THING!!

WILL SHE EVER SHUT UP?

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IT'S HER INCESSANT *MEDDLING* THAT CAUSED THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YES, IT'S ALL THAT CRAZED HEIFER'S FAULT.

IF ONLY I'D BLOCKED THE FOREST ENTRANCE...

...THE EXPERIMENT MIGHT NOT HAVE GONE STRAIGHT TO HADES.

OH WELL, NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED PAPOU JUICE.

THE BRAT'LL HAVE TO REAP WHAT SHE'S SOWN.

TIME TO HEAD BACK TO THE *TOWER*, I GUESS.

HMMMM.

THIS RING DOESN'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT THAN ANY OF THE OTHER *POWER RINGS*.

AND IT'S *DEFINITELY* THE SAME TYPE AS MINE.

COULD IT BE THAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH THE WEARER AND NOT THE ACTUAL RING?

Mmm

HEE HEE HEE!

HAHA

OH WELL, HER LOSS IS MY GAIN!

WHAT'D SHE EXPECT LOSIN' HER POWER RING LIKE THAT?

Nah nah na nah nah!

HOLD UP.

IF I POP THIS ONE ON, THEN I'LL BE BACK TO BEING A *GUY* AGAIN!

BUT HEY, THANKS TO YOU, IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT A NEW *GOAL* NOW.

EEEEEWWW!!!

THAT'S MEANS I'D HAVE THAT *THINGY* BETWEEN MY LEGS AGAIN! *GROSS!!*

BUT IF I DON'T PUT IT ON, CHUN-LANG'LL TRY AND TAKE IT BACK LATER!

TEMPER TANTRUM

OH WELL, NO HARM IN HANGING ONTO IT UNTIL I FIND ME *ANOTHER ONE.*

...

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE HIDDEN HER TRACKS RATHER WELL.

SORRY, NOT MY CONCERN.

I THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO THE WRONG PERSON HERE.

빠직

OOO, YOU'RE *JEALOUS* THAT SHE GOT AWAY FROM YOU, AREN'TCHA?!

YOU REALIZE SHE'S JUST A WEAK LITTLE GIRL, RIGHT?!

Hee hee hee!

YES, THAT I *DID* REALIZE. *SENSED*, EVEN.

SMILE

BUT...

...WHAT HAPPENED TO CHUN-LANG?

EVEN SO--

...

WHO?

HMPH! WHAT ABOUT THAT *LOWLIFE* GARBAGE?!

AH, YOU MEAN THE RUNNING *COWARD*.

YOU KNOW, SOME PEOPLE GIVE UP THE GHOST, BUT *YOU'RE* JUST THE GHOST THAT NEVER GIVES UP.

WHAT?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT YOU DON'T GET...

...BUT IT'S THIS KIND OF *LINGERING* ATTACHMENT THAT ONLY SERVES TO HELP THOSE YOU'RE FIGHTING.

WHAT A WASTE.

EVEN IF THE BODY'S DEAD, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE MIND STILL HAS TO BE.

Y-YOU...

WH-WHAT IN *HADES* ARE YOU SAYING?!

YOU HEARD ME. YOU'RE ALREADY *DEAD.*

UNTIL YOU LET THAT *SINK IN,* THAT STRONG WILL OF YOURS'LL *NEVER* BE FREE.

AAAAH!

AAARRG-

TOO LATE FOR THE *DRAMATICS*, TOUGH GUY!

WHAT'S LEFT OF YOU ONCE YOUR *WILL* IS GONE'LL JUST BE A CORRODED *HUSK!!*

UNNNH!

YOU...

OH!

...WHERE DO YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GOING?!

WHO, ME?

WELL, UH, EVEN IF YOU TAKE ME *HOSTAGE*, CHUN-LANG HAS NO REASON TO COME BACK.

SO, I THINK I'LL JUST, UH--

에헤헤

I SEE, SO THAT'S THE *EXTENT* OF YOUR ABILITIES.

EXPOSING ONE'S INNERMOST THOUGHTS... HOW *DIRTY*.

EH HEH HEH!

IF YOU WANT TO *READ* SOMETHING, THEN READ *THIS!*

Quest 30

I WAS ONCE *REVERED* FAR AND WIDE AS HWEE-YOUNG, THE BRAVE WARRIOR!

BUT ALL THAT IS *LEFT* OF ME NOW IS MY *UNDYING* WILL AND A SWORD FORGED IN *BLOOD!!*

EEEK!

YOU HAVE *ONE* HOUR!

IF THAT GIRL, CHUN-LANG, *DOESN'T* SHOW BY THE *APPOINTED* TIME, THAT PRETTY RED HEAD OF YOURS SHALL *ROLL!*

...BEFORE IT'S--?!

BUMBFOUNDED

SNORE

ZZZZ

YOUR HOUR IS ALMOST UP...

...AND STILL NO SIGN OF THAT PITIFUL COWARD.

YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR PEACE NOW...

HEY, DON'TCHA KNOW A GIRL'S GOTTA GET HER BEAUTY REST?!

YOU'LL HAVE *PLENTY* OF TIME TO REST WHEN YOU'RE *DEAD*.

GRRR!

I TAKE IT CHUN-LANG HASN'T SHOWN YET THEN, HUH?

OWWIE!

WHILE PRECIOUS FEW MINUTES *DO* STILL REMAIN, THERE IS *LITTLE* HOPE OF SEEING HER RETURN.

FACT IS, THERE AREN'T MANY WHO *WOULD* RISK LIFE OR LIMB FOR THE SAKE OF A FRIEND.

YOU'RE PRETTY COLD-HEARTED, YOU KNOW THAT? SO YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU WOULDN'T SAVE SOMEONE IF THE TABLES WERE TURNED?

I KNEW SOME PEOPLE ONCE...

...LIKE THAT.

I'M STAYING BEHIND!

I WANT YOU LOT OUT OF HERE, NOW!!

HWEE-YOUNG, WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

TAKE THAT BACK, GIRL!

DON'T YOU *DARE* PLACE ME IN THE *SAME* CATEGORY AS THOSE GUYS!!

THOSE... GUYS...?

WHAT GUYS?

...

IF YOU STAY HERE, YOU'LL ONLY END UP AS CAPTIVES... OR WORSE.

I'LL BUY YOU AS MUCH TIME AS I CAN, BUT I WANT YOU AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE.

HAVE YOU GONE *MAD?!* THAT'S AN ENTIRE ARMY!!

I SAY WE TRUST HIM AND LET HIM DO WHAT HIS HEART IS SET ON.

BUT THAT'S--!!

HE'S THINKING OF OUR BEST INTERESTS. IT'S OUR ONLY CHOICE.

PLEASE TRY YOUR BEST TO STAY ALIVE UNTIL WE CAN RETURN WITH REINFORCEMENTS.

IF YOU ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE GODS ARE ON YOUR SIDE, THEN OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO YOU.

OF *COURSE* THE GODS ARE ON MY SIDE!

I'M BRAVE WARRIOR HWEE-YOUNG, WHO *ELSE* WOULD THEY SIDE WITH?!

NOW GET GOING!

THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!!

HWEE-YOUNG, CAN YOU PROMISE ME THIS?

ANYTHING.

UNTIL WE CAN FINISH THIS *TOGETHER*, YOU CAN'T GO DYING ON ME.

DID YOU REALLY EVEN HAVE TO ASK?

I DON'T PLAN ON *DYING* ANYTIME SOON.

UNTIL OUR PATHS CROSS AGAIN, HWEE-YOUNG!

YES...UNTIL THEN.

WHAT IN HADES WAS I THINKING?

SIGH

GIRL, IT IS TIME.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PEACE?

HAAANNHH...

FUMING

THE ETERNAL SLEEP IT IS, THEN!!

SLUMP

WHOOSH

HUNH?

GLANCE

EH? M-MORNIN' ALREADY?

SAY, WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST?

THE DEAD HAVE NO NEED FOR FOOD.

YOUR FRIEND HAS SEEN FIT TO DESERT YOU.

...

NAH, I'M PRETTY SURE SHE'LL BE BACK ANY MINUTE NOW.

WHERE DO YOU GET SUCH CONFIDENCE?!

HAVING SUCH FAITH IN ONE'S OWN BRETHREN IS UNFOUNDED!!

OH, SO IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

YOU KNOW, NOT EVERYONE HAS THE SAME *BAD* EXPERIENCE AS YOU.

I HAVE FAITH CHUN-LANG'LL BE BACK. JUST YOU WAIT.

EVEN IF IT IS JUST TO GET HER RING BACK, BUT OH WELL.

Ho ho ho.

UUUGH.

I SHALL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE--

--EVEN IF SOMEONE **DOES** COME FOR YOU!

IF YOU'RE ALREADY HURT, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE!!

IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE!!!

KYAAAHH!!

바스락 rustle

COULD IT BE...?

CHUN-LANG ?!

HUH? WHOM MIGHT YOU BE?

HMMM...

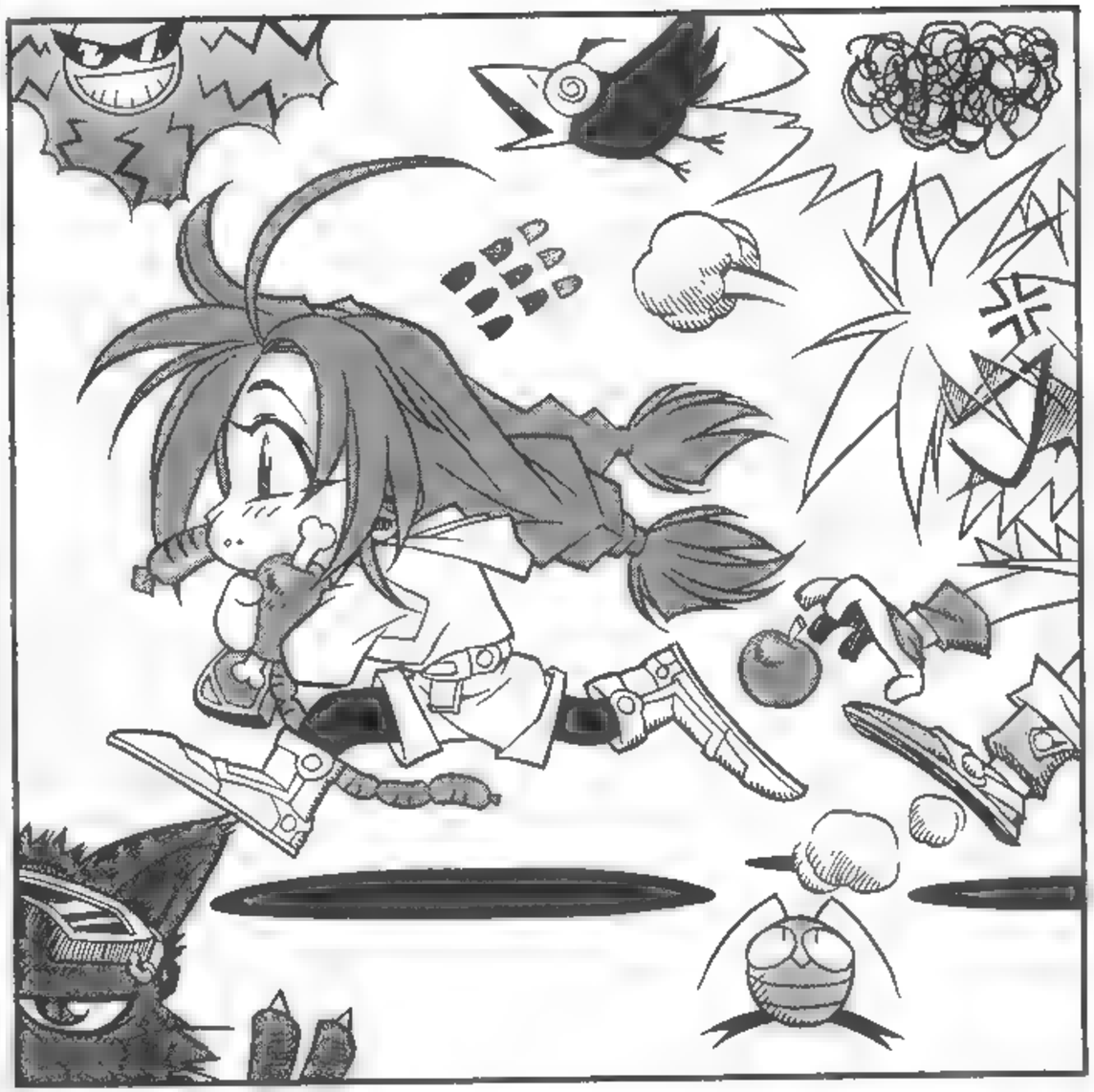
YOUR FACE LOOKS AWFULLY FAMILIAR.

Eeek!!

Uh, okay. Yeeeah.

What's a member of the Madosa Guild doing all the way out here?!

Quest 31



MY, ISN'T THIS THE *BIGGEST* COINCIDENCE. AND YET, HERE *WE* ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

HEH?!

HWEE-YOUNG, BE A DEAR AND *RESPECT* YOUR ELDERS.

WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE, OLD MAN?

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

TELL ME, LADY SANG, FOR WHAT REASON ARE YOU *PLAYING* OUT IN *MY* FOREST?

AND DON'T ACT SURPRISED. I'M VERY GOOD WITH NAMES.

WELL, UH, EH HEH. I, UM, I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? I HAVE A *CABIN* IN THESE PARTS.

BUT SINCE WE'VE RUN INTO EACH OTHER, MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?

WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS *THAT*?

LIES! I HAVE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE!!

YOU KEEP TALKING AS IF WE'VE NEVER MET.

UGH, THIS DAY IS GIVING ME A HEADACHE.

ZAP

GRRAAAH!!

HUFF HUFF

CRUMBLE

YOU WERE ALWAYS LITTLE MORE THAN A PUPPET, HWEE-YOUNG. A WORTHLESS FAILURE.

NOW, LADY SANG, SHALL WE CONTINUE?

AH, YOU KNOW ME, A LITTLE HERE...A LITTLE THERE.

HWEE-YOUNG WASN'T BAD, HE JUST NEVER LENT HIMSELF VERY WELL TO MY *MIND CONTROL*, IS ALL.

WAS THAT GUY A *ZOMBIE* ALL ALONG?

SO, WHERE'D YOU DIG HIM UP, ALCAN?

I'VE BEEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN THESE WOODS FOR A WHILE NOW, AND HE WAS ONE OF MY *MANY* GUARDS TO PREVENT INTRUDERS.

THAT UNDEAD PUP'S PERSONALITY IS JUST TOO PERSISTENT. DEATH NEVER SEEMS TO CONSUME HIM AND WITHOUT THAT, MIND CONTROL IS POINTLESS.

AFTER ALL, PRESIDENT HYUP SEEMS TO CONSIDER THESE TOYS AS VERY VALUABLE. WE CAN'T HAVE THEM *THINKING* ON THEIR *OWN*.

DON'T EVER REFER TO HUMANS AS "TOYS" AGAIN, ALCAN!!

WHY IN THE GODS' NAMES, *CAN'T* YOU RID YOURSELF OF THAT *BACKWARDS* THINKING?!!

...

WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT LEOPARDS AND THEIR SPOTS, LADY SANG

BESIDES, OUR LITTLE UNDEAD PILE OF MEAT HERE...

...IS A CORPSE UNWORTHY OF EVEN A BUZZARD'S GULLET.

HE IS A MERE TOY. A PUPPET. A THING.

I AM 400 YEARS YOUR SENIOR, LADY SANG.

YOU CANNOT *COMMAND* THE GREAT *ALCAN* TO DO *ANYTHING!*

I ANSWER *ONLY* TO PRESIDENT HYUP!

ALCAN...

YOU...YOU INSENSITIVE BASTARD!! NO WONDER THEY CALL YOU "EGO GIGANTIS" BEHIND YOUR BACK!

SINCE THE PRESIDENT *CAN'T* HANDLE YOU HIMSELF, THEN PERHAPS SOMEONE, SUCH AS I, CAN *COMPEL* THAT WILL OF YOURS.

YOU DON'T MEAN--?!

AU CONTRAIRE, I REMAIN HUMBLE TO THE ONE WHO COMMANDS THE ORDER AND ALL THOSE WITHIN THE MADOSA GUILD.

YOU, GIRL, ARE *NOTHING* BUT AN *EMPTY* IDOL IN THE FACE OF PRESIDENT HYUP!

AH, DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED, MY DEAR.

CARE TO TAKE A GUESS AT WHAT I'M AIMING AT?

주욱

STEP

STEP

STUMBLE

YES, YOUR FIVE POWER RINGS... *HAND* THEM OVER.

...

!

YOU ARE A CONSTANT *THORN* IN HIS SIDE...

...BUT ONE HE CANNOT *PLUCK* HIMSELF.

WHO ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE GONNA FIND BEING THE OPPOSITE SEX ALL THAT USEFUL?!

I MEAN, *TRUE*, THERE ARE *THOSE* KINDS OF BENEFITS... BUT I'D NEVER--

BLAH FREAKIN' DAH! ***WHATEVER!!*** IF WE CAN'T STRIKE A DEAL, THEN I HAVE NO QUALMS ***RIPPING*** THEM FROM YOUR HANDS!

SANG, YOU ARE A DESCENDANT OF THE MOST ***PRESTIGIOUS*** BLOODLINE IN ALL THE REDLANDS!

YOU WOULD MAKE FOR THE MOST ***PERFECT*** GUINEA PIG I COULD EVER HOPE FOR!!

NOT ON YOUR LIFE, SICKO!!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

O MIGHTY SINISTER ONE, GRANT THINE SERVANT BODIES TO FORCE THY WILL!

UH OH!

A STONE BEHEMOTH ?!

ARISE, MY MINIONS! ARISE AND TEAR ASUNDER THE ONE KNOWN AS LADY SANG!!

FOR I AM ALCAN! EIGHTH OFFICER OF THE ORDER RANK! COMMANDER OF ALL UNDEAD!!

MOO HA HA HA

ROOAR!!

YIIIP!!

DASH

I'm too cute to die

HMPH! THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN, LITTLE GIRL!!

MY SORCERY IS ALL ENCOMPASSING!!

THE VERY *FORCES* OF NATURE ARE BENDING TO *MY* WILL!!

FWOOM

EEEK!

FREEZE

DDDDDDD....

Z-ZOMBIES?!

WHERE ARE THEY ALL COMING FROM?!

MWA HA HA! REMEMBER, *THESE* ARE *MY* FORESTS!!

AND *THESE* ARE THE *COUNTLESS* LEGIONS THAT HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF HWEE-YOUNG!

HE KILLED ALL THEM?!

Quest 32

DOESN'T MATTER THOUGH! YOU CAN'T BLOCK ALL THE EXITS!!

HUH?

타닥

CHUN-LANG?!

S-SANG?!

'BOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP!!

BEEN A LITTLE TIED UP! DON'T BELIEVE ME, JUST LOOK BEHIND YOU!!

끼에에에

B-BEHIND ME?

UH, I'LL JUST TAKE YOUR WORD ON IT.

AZZZZZ

GRRR!

WHERE THE HECK'D YOU PICK THAT MONSTER UP FROM?!

I SWEAR, YOU'RE JUST NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, AREN'TCHA?!

UUUHG...

LOOK WHO'S TALKING, LITTLE MISS QUEEN OF THE DAMNED.

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I NEARLY LOST MY HEAD BECAUSE OF YOU!

YEAH, WELL, WE'VE BOTH GOT OUR SHARE OF PROBLEMS, THEN!

TOOOHOHO

YOU TRAITOROUS HEIFER! YOU DARE SHOW YOUR FACE BEFORE ME?!

HUH?

YOU *RUINED* A MILLENNIA'S WORTH OF WORK IN A *SINGLE* INSTANT!

THAT IS UNFORGIVABLE!!

That mark on his forehead... that's--?!!

TIME

SHOCK

SANG, IT'D BE NICE IF I COULD GET MY RING BACK *SOMETIME* TODAY.

EH? RING?

OH, UH, YEAH. BEEN KEEPIN' IT NICE AND SAFE FOR YA!

Eh heh heh..

AWW, GUESS SHE WANTS IT BACK AFTER ALL, HUH?

HEY, NO HARD FEELIN'S, OKAY?

SEE, UH, GOOD AS NEW!

SMILE

SANG, DO ME A FAVOR AND *STAY BACK!!*

UH, S-SURE.

BUT, UH, NOT *TOO FAR,* RIGHT?

ZZZ

HOLY COW! THERE'S NO PLACE TO STAY BACK TO!!

JUST SHUT UP AND GET OUTTA THE WAY!!

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE PART OF THE MADOSA GUILD OR WHAT, BUT I'LL FIGURE IT OUT EVENTUALLY!

BUT I'M NOT--!

Uh oh, she knows about the Madosa Guild!!

RRAAAAGGHH!!!

COULD IT BE THAT SHE'S...

SHE'S A RETAINER?!

YOU ARE MY PARENTS' ENEMY! MY SWORN ENEMY!!

I SHALL NEVER FORGET WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY!!

FOR CENTURIES YOU'VE SLAUGHTERED *MILLIONS*, ALL FOR THE SAKE OF GAINING A RING'S *POWER!!*

BUT WHAT'S THE MADOSA GUILD'S *TRUE PURPOSE?!* ANSWER ME THAT!! *ANSWER ME THAT!!*

INTERESTING. EVEN IN THE REDLANDS THERE ARE FEW WHO KNOW OF THE GUILD'S EXISTENCE.

AND FOR ONE, SUCH AS I, TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH TWO RETAINERS...!

HEHEHE MWAHAHAHAHA!

FINE! IF YOU'RE *THAT* CURIOUS, I'LL TELL YOU!!

BUT BEFORE I DO, WOULD YOU BE SO *KIND* AS TO *RELINQUISH* YOUR POWER RING UNTO *ME?!*

JUST *TRY* AND TAKE IT FROM ME! I'VE BEEN *RARIN'* FOR A *REAL* FIGHT ALL DAY!!

PHEH! BE SERIOUS!!

YOUR LITTLE *PARASITES* DON'T *EVEN* FAZE ME!!

HOLY METEOR!!

EXORCISM STRIKE!!!

ACK!

She's strong, but there's a limit to her power.

I can't see her doing much more damage than that. She's right where I want her.

INSTEAD, I'LL INTRODUCE UNTO YOU A *NEW* OPPONENT!

KO

Huh?! Him again...?!

SO, ALCAN, READY TO FACE ME ONE-ON-ONE?!

YOU CAN DELAY YOUR ANSWER ALL DAY, BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT GONNA SEE THE END OF IT!!

HMPH!

AN HONORABLE DISPLAY, BUT NOT EVEN A HUNDRED YEARS OF TRAINING COULD BRING YOU *UP* TO *MY* LEVEL!

TWO SWORDSMEN, EQUALLY MATCHED, IN A FIGHT TO THE FINISH. YOU GAME?

CRACKLE

Quest 33

IF SO, THEN ALLOW ME TO, ONCE AGAIN, INTRODUCE YOU TO HWEE-YOUNG!

I ACQUIRED THIS ABLE-BODIED YOUNG SWORDSMAN *TWENTY* YEARS AGO AND HE'S STILL AS BRAVE AND HONORABLE AS THE DAY HE *DIED!*

HEH. EVEN BETTER.

I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THIS GUY.

WAAAH!! DON'T LEAVE ME OVER HERE WITH MISTER MONSTER!!

GRRRR

YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD ME AT A DISADVANTAGE BEFORE...
BUT YOU'RE DEALING WITH A WHOLE *DIFFERENT* CHUN-LANG NOW!!
...
FUNNY TO SEE YOU AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.
WHAT'S WRONG? WEREWOLF GOT YOUR TONGUE?
YOU *EVEN TRY* SHOWING OFF LIKE BEFORE AND I'LL CUT YOU DOWN!!

...!!

WHERE'D ALL OF THAT *POWER* GO, HUH?!

WHAT, YOU SCARED OR SOMETHIN'?!

C'MON, FIGHT ME!!

KA-KI-KI-KI

KA-KI-KI-KI

This guy... he's different.

He doesn't have that same focus he had earlier.

It's as if I'm fighting a doll!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM YOU'RE HAVING...

BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S THE *LEAST* OF MY WORRIES!!

THIS IS PAYBACK FOR EARLIER!!

DISEMBOWELING STRIKE!!

DARGH! YOU BLASTED CUR!!

IF ONLY I'D KNOWN CONTROLLING HIS EGO WOULD CUT HIS POWER IN HALF...

B-B-BLOOD?!

IS...IS THIS...F-FROM M-ME?

BIT *LATE* FOR THAT NOW, THOUGH.

AH, SO YOU *CAN* TALK.

WAIT, WHAT IN HADES?!

DARKNESS SOUL!!!

DAARGGH!!

ELIMINATING *POOR* WORKMANSHIP IS A GIVEN.

BUT RIDDING MYSELF OF YOU IS LIKE *KILLING* TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

HEH. AT LEAST THE SOUP WAS GOOD.

NOOOOUUUAHAHH!!

KRAZO

HUH?!

KRAZO

EEEK!

HE WAS SO CALM AND QUIET UP UNTIL NOW! WHAT'S GOTTEN HIM SO--?!

OOMF!!

SKK

M-MOO... M-MOO- MOOM...MY!

By the gods...

...it knows how to talk!

Wait a sec, did it just say... Mommy?

YUP!!!

Don't tell me...I was the first face it saw, wasn't I?

chirp

chirp

MRAAAH!! MO-MOOMMY!!

MOMMY! MOOOMMYYY!!

E-EASY, BIG GUY! I-I'M *NOT* YOUR MOMMY!!

I-I'M NOT EVEN A *WOMAN* RIGHT NOW! Will daddy do?

UGH, THIS DAY JUST KEEPS GETTING *WORSE* AND *WORSE!*

FINE, LET'S WRAP THIS UP QUICKLY! I HAVE A MIGRAINE.

DARKNESS SOUL!!!

FWOOSH

TOTORI

FWOOSH

BY HADES... NO!!

MY... MY MAGIC HAS NO EFFECT ON IT!!

HUNH?

AND THAT THING, IT'S...IT'S GROWING!!

TH-THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE!!

GRAB

MOOOMMY!

TH-THE EXPERIMENT WAS ACTUALLY A SUCCESS!! GIGANTES HAS BEEN *REBORN!!*

Do I even look like I gave birth to you?!

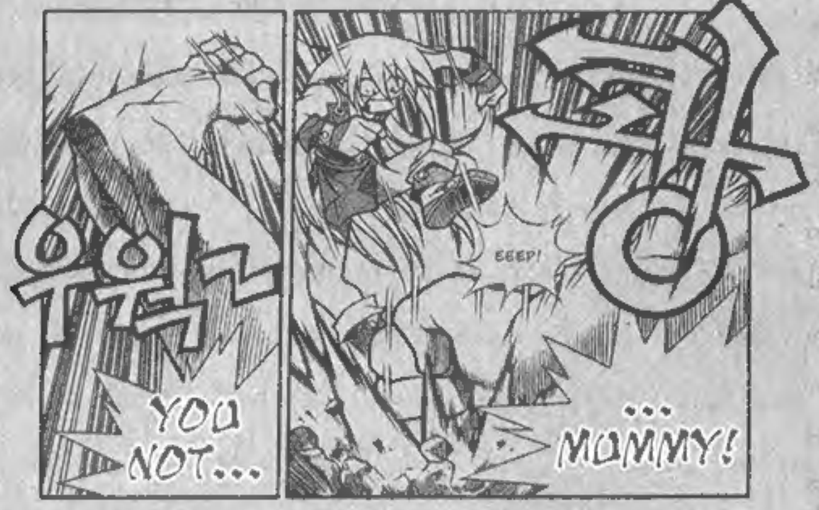
CONGRATULATIONS, CHUN-LANG! IT'S A BOY!!

To Be Continued in PhD: Phantasy Degree Volume 4!!

In the Next Volume of...

PHD

PHANTASY DEGREE



OH BOY. THIS IS AN INTERESTING TURN OF EVENTS!
MRROOH.
YOU'RE PLANNIN' ON DECIMATING THE ENTIRE WORLD JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A MOMMA'S BOY?!

All Hades breaks loose when Gigantes discovers that he's "adopted"! Chun-Lang and Sang try desperately to soothe the beastly baby, but his temper tantrum continues to wreak havoc in the woods! Enter Shumiro and Hexion. No, they're not the world's greatest babysitters--they're elves who serve as guardians of the forest, and they're determined to put this hairy situation--and its irresponsible parents--to sleep!

KABOOM!
BY THE GODS!
PROFESSOR SHUMIRO, SIR?!
YES, I KNOW. I WITNESSED IT AS WELL!
I SHALL INVESTIGATE THE AREA THE SCREAMING ORIGINATED FROM.
HEXION, YOU SCOUT OUT THE ORIGIN OF THAT EXPLOSION.

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